

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PM-07 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 EA-11 NEA-10 /197 W
----- 014905

R 031520Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7040

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

US MISSION USEC BRUSSELS 482

US MISSION OECD PARIS 1095

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0017

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, ENRG, FI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN'S NEW YEAR'S SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S SPEECH, PRESIDENT KEKKONEN DEVOTED PRIMARY ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND PROBLEMS OF FINLAND WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE TARIFF AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, TO RELATIONS WITH THE EAST, AND TO THE ENERGY CRISIS. IN THE POLITICAL REALM THE PRESIDENT INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH THE EASING IN THE GLOBAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY TENSIONS AND WITH FINNISH INITIATIVES CONTRIBUTING TO EASING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN'S SPEECH, DELIVERED DESPITE HIS COLD, WAS INTENDED TO MEET HIS TRADITION-
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AL COMMITMENT AND TO EMPLHASIZE HIS CONCERN WITH

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ENERGY SITUATION AS THEY AFFECT FINLAND'S FUTURE. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY HIM IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD ARE:

A. THE MOST FAR-REACHING DECISION OF FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY WAS THE CONCLUSION OF THE TARIFF AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT AFFECT FINLAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS OR ITS BASIC LINE OF FOREIGN POLICY.

B. FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS PASSED AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE WITH THE SIGNING OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CEMA. ADDITIONALLY, FINNISH-SOVIET TRADE INCREASED APPRECIABLY AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION TOOK A LONG STEP WITH CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE PAAJARVI AND KOSTOMUS PROJECTS.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN MARKED WITH A FAVORABLE UPSWING IN RECENT YEARS; IN THE PAST TWO YEARS PRODUCTION AND PRIVATE CONSUMPTION ROSE BY 10 PERCENT. BUT, FINLAND IS STILL FACED WITH REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATIONARY PRICE INCREASES, AND A STEEPLY CLIMBING TRADE DEFICIT.

D. ON THE ENERGY CRISIS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT AND INTERESED ORGANIZATIONS VIEW THE SITUATION SERIOUSLY. THE FAST ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RISING LIVING STANDARDS HAVE BEEN BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF CHEAP ENERGY. IT IS NOTED THAT EVEN IF THE OIL SITUATION EASES SOMEWHAT, THE PRICE OF ENERGY WILL BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER AND THIS WILL AFFECT ECONOMIC POLICIES. OIL CONTRIBUTES TO MORE THAN ONE-HALF FINLAND'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION, FOR FINLAND, THE QUESTION IS NOT ONE OF SUPPLIES AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL BUT ONE OF COSTS. FINLAND MUST SEARCH FOR METHODS OF INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY WHICH WILL NOT REQUIRE AN EXPANSION OF USE OF ENERGY AS HERETOFORE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FINLAND MUST BE CONTENT WITH A SMALLER RATE OF GROWTH OF PRODUCTION, REAL INCOME AND GENERAL WELL-BEING.

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3. IN THE POLITICAL AREA, THE PRESIDENT INDICATES SATISFACTION WITH THE EASING OF GLOBAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY TENSIONS DURING THE PAST AND FINNISH INITIATIVES CONTRIBUTING TO EASING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. HE POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME "CONTRARY CURRENTS" AND SAYS THAT "FASCISM HAS STRENGTHENED ITS POSITION" AND REFERS

TO DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE AND GREECE.

4. TEXT OF SPEECH WILL BE SENT UNDER COVER OF
AIRGRAM.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HELSIN00017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740165/aaaaciyr.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN'S NEW YEAR'S SPEECH
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, ENRG, FI, (KIKKONEN, URHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005